

*Soviet
changes*

MEMORANDUM FOR: The President

VIA : The Honorable Zbigniew Brzezinski
Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs
FROM : *Deputy N/I to* Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT : "The Next Two Years: Brezhnev, or a Succession?
Implications for US Policy"

1. Some time back Bill Hyland requested a careful intelligence look at these questions:

-- How do we estimate Brezhnev's current personal and political health? What are the chances of his leaving power in the next year or two?

--If Brezhnev leaves power within the next year or two, how long and orderly or otherwise is the early succession period likely to be?

--What are the short-term policy implications of the succession for the US?

--What succession scenarios are likely? Possible? With what varying policy implications for the US?

2. State/INR, CIA and NSA have worked out some answers *in the* *attached* *memorandum.* *likely to be*
~~In addition, for you and others who haven't been through a Soviet leadership succession before, I asked them to describe what in general is involved in the succession process, and how the Soviets are likely to be for you to deal with while all that is going on.~~

likely to be

STANSFIELD TURNER

for Borne

Attachment